

Marriages & Marriage Dissolutions

Marriages

In 2006, 18,836 marriages occurred in Kansas, an increase of 0.5 percent from the 2005 total of 18,745 marriages. ([Table 62](#))

The greatest number of marriages (3,498) occurred in Sedgwick County, but Geary County had the highest marriage rate (23.8 marriages per 1,000 population). Comanche and Greeley counties had the fewest marriages (5 each) and Clark and Stafford had the lowest marriage rates (both at 2.7). ([Table 62](#), [Figure 36](#))

The Kansas marriage rate in 2006 was 6.8 marriages per 1,000 population, which was 41.7 percent higher than the 1987 rate of 4.8. The 2006 rate was 6.8 percent lower than the estimated U.S. rate of 7.3 marriages per 1,000 population. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 38](#))

Eighty-four (84.2) percent of the marriages performed in Kansas in 2006 were between partners of the same population group. The most common population group combination was between a Hispanic groom and a White Non-Hispanic bride. ([Table 64](#))

More wedding ceremonies were performed in June (13.0 percent) than any other month in 2006. July and September were the second and third most popular months. ([Figure 40](#))

First-time marriages for both partners made up more than half of the marriages in Kansas for the eighth consecutive year. In 2006, 56.0 percent of all marriages involved first-time partners. ([Table 66](#), [Figure 2](#))

Kansas couples are delaying marriage. In 1987, 15.3 percent of the brides and 5.8 percent of the grooms were under 20 years of age. However, in 2006, only 8.5 percent of the brides and 3.4 percent of the grooms were under 20. ([Table 67](#))

The average age of all brides in 2006 was 29.7 years and that of grooms was 31.9 years. Women marrying for the first time averaged 25.0 years while first time grooms averaged 27.0 years. Of those persons who remarried during 2006, women were, on the average, 39.9 years old and men were 42.7 years of age. ([Figure 41](#))

Marriage and Marriage Dissolutions (Cont.)

Marriage Dissolutions

In 2006, 9,145 marriage dissolutions (8,882 divorces and 263 annulments) occurred in Kansas, an increase of 7.9 percent from the 2005 total of 8,476. ([Tables 63](#) and [69](#))

The greatest number of marriage dissolutions (2,599) occurred in Sedgwick County. Coffey County had the highest marriage dissolution rate (16.1) per 1,000 population. Greeley County had both zero marriage dissolutions in 2006 and the lowest marriage dissolution rate of 0.0 per 1,000 population. ([Table 63](#), [Figure 37](#))

The Kansas marriage dissolution rate in 2006 was 3.3 per 1,000 population, which was 32.7 percent lower than the 1987 rate of 4.9. ([Table 1](#), [Figure 39](#))

Kansas reported a higher marriage dissolution rate than the U.S. from 1952 to 1994. However, in 1995, Kansas' rate (4.3) dropped below the U.S. rate (4.4) and has remained below the national norm each year since 1995. The Kansas rate in 2006 (3.3) was 8.3 percent lower than the U.S. rate (3.6). ([Figure 39](#))

The ratios of marriages to divorces for Kansas and the U.S. were both roughly 2 to 1, with Kansas at 2.1:1 and the U.S. at 2.0:1. ([Tables 62](#) and [63](#))

The most common age-group of wives and husbands involved in marriage dissolutions in 2006 was 25-29. For couples of the same age-group, the most common age-group was also 25-29. ([Table 68](#))

The average age at marriage dissolution in 2006 was 36.5 years for wives and 38.9 years for husbands, as compared to 32.4 years for wives and 35.0 years for husbands in 1987. ([Figure 42](#))

In 2006, 37.8 percent of marriages ending in divorce or annulment lasted four years or less. ([Table 69](#))

There were 8,496 minor children affected as a result of marriage dissolutions in 2006. At least one minor child was reported to be involved in half (50.7 percent) of the marriage dissolutions. ([Table 70](#), [Figure 43](#))

Note: The tabulation of divorce statistics is impacted by the completeness of reporting by District Courts in Kansas. Despite efforts to assure 100 percent reporting compliance, it has been determined by the Center for Health and Environmental Statistics that not all divorce and annulment certificates have been filed with the Center. The Center is unable to estimate the number of these records not filed. Users of marriage dissolution data should exercise caution before making any conclusions based on these data. The Center is obligated to report the data it collects, but recommends that any marriage dissolution data findings be accompanied by a statement that totals may not represent 100 percent of this vital event due to under-reporting.